
East Tennessee **Writer**

Newsletter of the Knoxville Writers' Guild
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Writers' Guild April 6 Gala Awards to Honor Knoxville Journalist Carson Brewer



by Don Williams

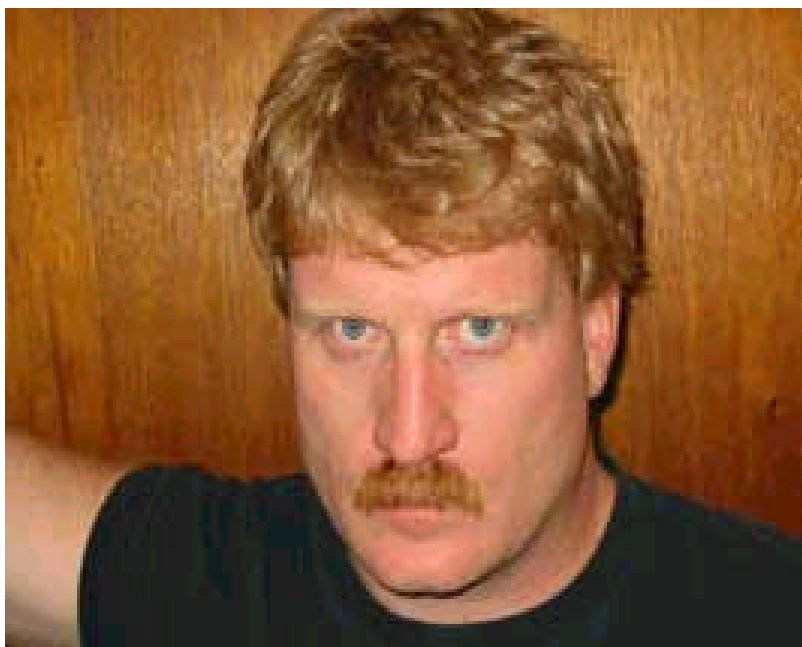
The envelope please! And the winner is. . ."

Buy your tickets now to learn who won the 2002 Knoxville Writers' Guild's Annual Awards for short fiction, poetry and essays and to honor Knoxville

journalist Carson Brewer. The awards will also feature live music, hors' d'oeuvres, appearances by celebrated writers, and a cash bar at The Lord Lindsey, located at 615 West Hill Ave. Festivities begin with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 6. Names of award winners will be announced starting about 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and may be reserved by making checks payable to KWG and mailing to "Tickets" at PO Box 10326, Knoxville, TN 37939. Tickets will also be available at the March meeting.

R. B. Morris, Knoxville recording artist and playwright, will appear as James Agee, the immortal Knoxville author of the Pulitzer-winning novel, *A Death in the Family*; the nonfiction classic, *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*; and the screenplay for *The African Queen*. Dressed as Agee, he will read from Agee's works in keeping with the spirit of his play about Agee, *The Man Who Lives Here is Looney*. A celebrity emcee will introduce Morris. Other presenters will include KWG President Julie Auer, *News-Sentinel* columnist Don Williams, and poets Linda Parsons Marion, Jeff Daniel Marion, Laura Still and Marybeth Boyanton. Carson Brewer will receive the first-ever Knoxville Writers' Guild Career Achievement Award for his growing body of work. The long-time *News-Sentinel* columnist's books include *A Wonderment of Mountains: The Great Smokies* (see Gala, p. 5)

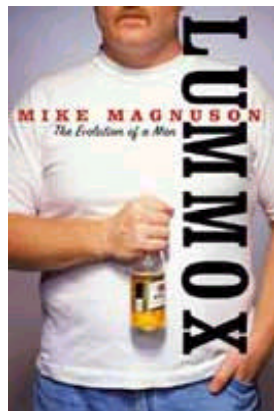
WHAT IS A LUMMOX? Find out at March 7 meeting



Magnuson

"A lumox," says writer Mike Magnuson, "is a big oafish man who is smarter than he looks."

Which puts us in a difficult situation, because Magnuson looks neither oafish nor stupid, but he calls himself a lumox, and it's hard to argue with a guy who looks at you like Magnuson does. You are more inclined to agree that, whatever he says, goes. The good news is that Magnuson says he is going to come to the Knoxville Writers' Guild on Thursday, March 7, to read from his new book, *Lumox*, and answer questions about writing (and whatever else he feels like).



Magnuson is also the author of *The Right Man for the Job* (HarperCollins, 1997) and *The Fire Gospels* (HarperFlamingo, 1998). He received his MFA in fiction from the U. of Florida, where he studied with Padgett Powell. His academic interests include English grammar, form in modern fiction, and the contemporary grotesque novel. In his non-university life, he rides bicycles, smokes cigarettes, and raises children. The program begins at 7 p.m. at the Laurel Theater. A \$1 donation is requested.

The Writing News



Robert Pinsky

"If you could write one great poem, what would you want it to be about?"

Robert Pinsky, former U.S. Poet Laureate, asked this question of four student poets at the Illinois Schools for the Deaf and Visually Impaired.

Fire: Because it is quick, and can destroy.
Music: place where anger has its place.
Romantic Love—the cold or stupid ask why.
Sign: that it is a language, full of grace,

That it is visible, invisible, dark and clear,
That it is loud and noiseless and is contained
Inside a body and explodes in air
Out of a body to conquer from the mind.

Lewis Carroll on Words:

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less. They've a temper, some of them—particularly verbs, they're the proudest—adjectives you can do anything with, but not verbs."

Maya Angelou on Writing:

"When I'm writing, I am trying to find out who am, who we are, what we're capable of, how we feel, how we lose and stand up, and go on from darkness into darkness.

(Excerpts above from The Spirit of Writing, edited by Mark Waldman and published by Tarcher/Putnam)

Random House Cancels e-book Imprint Started in Year 2000:

Citing a lack of consumer demand, the Random House Trade Group has canceled its e-book imprint. Most of the books already scheduled to be released by the imprint, which was created in July 2000, will receive a traditional paperback format.

Literary Figures Will be Subjects of U. S. Postal Stamps:

Poet Langston Hughes appears on the 25th stamp in the Black Heritage series printed by the U. S. Postal Service. The stamps were issued in February 2002.

In August, poet Ogden Nash will be honored with a new stamp in the Literary Arts Series.



Old Man of the Sea Dies in Cuba

HAVANA, Cuba (AP) — Gregorio Fuentes, who was boat captain to Ernest Hemingway when the late American writer lived in Cuba, and, some say, the inspiration for the protagonist in Hemingway's classic, "The Old Man and the Sea," died from cancer in January 2002 at age 104. For nearly 30 years, Fuentes was captain, cook and friend to the American writer. Born on July 11, 1897 in Lanzarote, in the Canary Islands, Fuentes was traveling to Cuba when his father, the ship's cook, died on board. The young orphan was taken in by other Canary Island immigrants in Cuba who cared for him until he reached adolescence. Hemingway and Fuentes met in 1928, and in the



1930s the writer hired the mariner for \$250 a month to maintain his boat, El Pilar. Before returning to the United States in 1960, Hemingway stopped by Fuentes' Cojimar home to say good-bye. El Pilar was Hemingway's beloved fishing boat, which now sits at Finca Vigia, the writer's one-time home that has been converted into a museum. "Take care of yourself as you have known how," Fuentes remembered Hemingway telling him. Fuentes later inherited El Pilar and donated it to the Cuban government, which displays it outside Hemingway's former home, now a museum on the outskirts of Havana.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By JULIE AUER

Get Ready, Get Set, GO to the Guild's Writer Support Groups

NEED SOME CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM?

Join others who share your special interest in writing! Contact these leaders to join a group already organized. If you want to start a group not listed, e-mail:

Elaine Oswald at elaineoswald@juno.com

Novel Writers Group: Timothy Joseph, timjoseph@bigfoot.com

Poetry Interest Group: Marybeth Boyanton, Poetry-in-Progress:
kwg.pip.workshop@att.net

Non Fiction & Memoir: Jayne Raparelli, jayner@codi.net

Writing Women: Doris Ivie, divie@pstcc.cc.tn.us

Short Fiction: Pamela Schoenewaldt, schoene@bellsouth.net

Experiments in Voice, Genre, Style Group: MaryTebo,
tebo@utkux.utcc.utk.edu

Multi-genre: non-fiction, fiction, poetry: Suzanne Burnell,
sburnell@fwenc.com

Essay/non-fiction: Marlene Taylor, mtaylor@metrononline.com

By way of keeping the general membership informed on what the KWG is up to, I thought it would be helpful to write a brief column for the newsletter each month. As a new president, I would first like to publicly recognize two past presidents of KWG, the only presidents of my acquaintance since I joined in 1999. Both Fred Brown and John Reaves deserve credit for two burgeoning projects that will further advance KWG's place in the arts community.

Fred Brown, whose term ended at the close of 2000, has approached me with a proposal to establish a hall of fame for great Tennessee writers. Most states have established such literary academies to recognize their best all-time writers, but no such institution includes the likes of James Agee, Cormac McCarthy, Shelby Foote, or any other writers of national and international renown whose roots lie in Tennessee. Fred will speak briefly on the issue at the March general meeting. He will need help with this project, and we are asking anyone who is a member of KWG to show up for the meeting on March 7 and let Fred know if you are willing to join his task force.

Last year president John Reaves got us motivated to launch a new anthology project. During John's term, the board brainstormed a host of new ideas for a more involved literary community, and a broader spectrum of community outreach. The best way for writers to accomplish both is to publish an anthology. I would like to thank John Reaves on behalf of the board of directors for keeping us focussed on the importance of the anthology, and also former treasurer, Jim Johnston, for continuing to advise the board on its progress. The projected date of publication is fall of 2003, and we're already started. It's going to be a great anthology, and we're very excited about it. Any member who is interested in getting involved should contact me at hildegard@earthlink.net

TN Mountain Writers Plan 14th Conference April 10-13 in OR

The 14th annual conference of the Tennessee Mountain Writers will be held April 10-13, 2002 at the Garden Plaza Hotel in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Novelist Lee Smith will be the speaker.



Lee Smith

Wednesday Night April 10: Opening reception. Banquet Speaker: Acclaimed Southern writer Lee Smith will be the banquet speaker.

Friday April 12: "B. Smith Does Lee Smith." Many of our participants will remember Barbara Smith from her performances of Ivy Rowe at past conferences.



B. Smith



Lewis



Trocheck

WORKSHOP LEADERS: Writing for Young Adults: Lou Kassem; Fiction: Kathy Trocheck; Nonfiction: Peter Stillman ; Special Oral History Session: Lee Smith; Poetry: Kathryn Byer; Specialty Sessions: Elfrieda Abbe, Editor of The Writer magazine and Writer's Handbook); Bobby Copeland (Western Movies); Daniel Lewis (Representative from Overmountain Press) **For cost and schedules, go to www.tnwi.org. For a brochure, e-mail tnmtwrite@aol.com**



Kassem



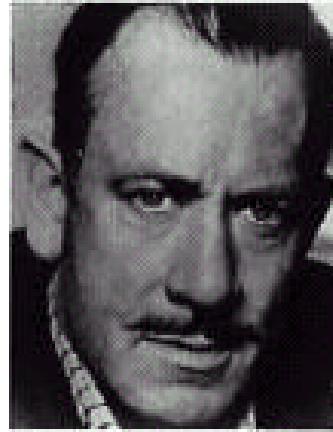
Byer



Copel



Stillman



"The ancient commission of the writer has not changed. He is charged with exposing our many grievous faults and failures, with dredging up to

the light our dark and dangerous dreams for the purpose of improvement."

John Steinbeck: Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech 1962

Steinbeck: 100th Birthday Celebration

(revised and excerpted from an AP wire story)

Neighbors in his hometown who once called him "no-good Johnny Steinbeck" are now leading the country in a yearlong celebration of the author's 100th birthday. Festivities will include art shows, film festivals and a gala tribute March 19 at New York's Lincoln Center.

Jim Gattis, who came to Salinas from Arkansas with his parents during the Dust Bowl years, says, "He stung at the time. But you get a few generations away and you see that he was writing the truth." In the 1930s Salinas was a dusty town of about 5,000 people. Workers were taught to "know their place," until the dark-skinned migrants were joined by "Okies" – white Midwestern farm families who fled drought and came West in search of a better life in the lettuce fields of Salinas Valley – Steinbeck's "green gold."

Today, Monterey County has a \$2 billion industry, governed by large corporations, that produces more vegetables than any other U.S. county. The fields are still worked mostly by Spanish-speaking migrants. And the sardine business at Monterey's Cannery Row, described by Steinbeck as "a poem, a stink, a grating noise," is a collection of restaurants and boutiques crowded by tourists. Steinbeck portrayed the region's beauty in such novels as "East of Eden," "The Grapes of Wrath" and "Cannery Row," but uncovered its seamy side as well, writing about the exploitation of farm workers, prostitution and social injustice – issues that still resonate today.

Membership Directory to be Updated

A new membership directory will be published for the benefit of the entire membership of the Knoxville Writers' Guild. We believe it will increase communication among members and help to increase the vitality and visibility of the Guild. Addresses and phone numbers currently on our files will be printed in the directory, and each member will receive a free copy. If your address or phone number has changed since you last renewed your membership, please provide updated information to Pamela Schoenewaldt at schoene@bellsouth.net or mailto:schoene@bellsouth.net

Any member who does not wish to be included in the directory should contact Pamela. If you do not have an e-mail address, mail your request by letter to Knoxville Writers' Guild at P. O. Box 10326, Knoxville, TN 37939.

(Gala, from page 1)

Hiking in the Great Smokies (1962), which has seldom been out of print; and the classic, *Valley So Wild*, which he co-authored with his wife, Alberta.

Rocky Wynder jazz combo will provide music following the ceremony and Doug LaVerne will provide music on the steel drums during social hour. For more information, contact Don Williams at donwilliams7@att.net or call 865-428-0389.

Contests and Conferences

Society of Childrens Book Writers and Illustrators-Midsouth annual Spring Conference, April 20, 2002, at the University School of Nashville.



Speakers will be Newberry-winning author Sid Fleischman, Walker & Co. editor Tim Travaglini, publishing consultant Alice B. Acheson, authors Ronald Kidd, Lynne Berry, Tracy Barrett, and illustrator Brian Lies. Manuscript and portfolio critiques available. Registration fee: \$65 SCBWI members, \$70 non-members. Registration limited to the first 100 paid. For registration form: business-sized SASE to Tracy Barrett, SCBWI-Midsouth Regional Advisor, P.O. Box 120061, Nashville, TN 37212. For

information: (615)297-1667 or see scbwi.midsouth@juno.com.



New Letters 2002 Literary Awards: Prizes of \$1000 for each of the following categories: Alexander Patterson Cappon Fiction Award for the best short story; New Letters Poetry Award for the best group of three to six poems; and the Dorothy Churchill Cappon Creative Nonfiction Award for the best work of creative

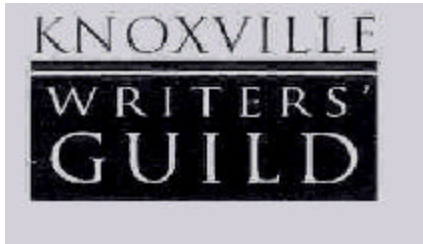
nonfiction. Deadline: Postmarked by May 17, 2002. Winners will be announced the week of September 15, 2001. Winners' work will be published in the spring 2003 issue of *New Letters*. *Unpublished work only*. With each entry enclose \$10 reading fee per piece, with checks payable to New Letters Literary Awards. Two cover sheets, one with name, address, email, phone, category and title; second with category and title only. Stamped, self-addressed postcard for notification of receipt and entry no. Stamped envelope for list of winners. Word limit: 5,000 words. Poems in any single entry may, but need not, be related. Mail entries to: New Letters Literary Awards, University House, 5101 Rockhill Road, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499.



Put it in Writing Workshop: Right here at home is a writing workshop sponsored by *Woman's Day Magazine* and the American Library Association at select libraries around the country, and our own Knox County Public Library at 500 W. Church Avenue is one of the chosen locations. The one-day, three-hour workshop will be held on Tuesday April 16 and will be taught by WD writers and the library staff. Workshops will focus on how aspiring writers can get published and how the library can help. For more information log on to www.womansday.com or call the Knoxville Public Library on Church Avenue.

Knoxville Writers' Guild:

Organized in December 1992 in Knoxville, TN, to facilitate a broad, inclusive and egalitarian community among area writers; to provide a forum for information, support and sharing among writers; to help members improve and market their writing skills, and to promote writing and creativity in the wider community through education, publication, and sponsorship of writing-related public events. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at the Laurel Theater. **Officers:** President: Julie Auer; Vice President: Don Williams; Secretary: Kim Trevathan; Treasurer: Laura Still; Hospitality: Kay Newton; Publicity: Marybeth Boyanton; President Emeritus: Jack Reese; VP Emeritus: Michael Gillespie; **Newsletter Editor:** Jeanne McDonald; **Webmistress:** Jo Ann Pantanizopoulos. **Board Members:** Julia Auer, Marybeth Boyanton, Robert Boyd, Jacqueline Kittrell, Michael Knight, Judy Loest, Robert Lydick, Kay Newton, Caroline Norris, Elaine Oswald, Pamela Schoenwaldt, Laura Still, Kim Trevathan, Perry Tschantz, and Don Williams. Dues are \$20, \$15 for students. The KWG does not discriminate against any person because of race, age, gender, handicap or country of national origin. Tel: 531-8855; send e-mail messages to editor, jmd531k@msn.com or to pres. at hildegard@earthlink.com web: www.knoxvillewritersguild.org



**P.O. Box 10326
Knoxville, TN 37939**

HOW TO JOIN

To join the Writers' Guild, complete the form below and mail to P.O. Box 10326, Knoxville, TN 37939, along with annual dues of \$20. Dues are \$15 if you are a student. Membership allows you to participate in study groups, receive discounts on books and Guild-sponsored merchandise, and monthly issues of the newsletter.

SCREENERS NEEDED

The Knoxville Writers' Guild needs screeners for the 2002 Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel. We are expecting at least 400 submissions to this year's competition, and we need all the help we can get. Dozens of KWG members have screened in prior years, and they have found the experience to be fun, educational – and a nice addition to their resumes.

Screening will begin in late April and will continue through June. If you like to read literary fiction and have not yet been involved in this project (which is, by the way, one of KWG's principal fundraisers), please send a letter explaining your interest and your background to Brian Griffin, P.O. Box 2565, Knoxville, TN 37901. (If you have helped in the past, we will contact you soon via e-mail.)

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Telephone No. _____</p> <p>Email Address _____</p>
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